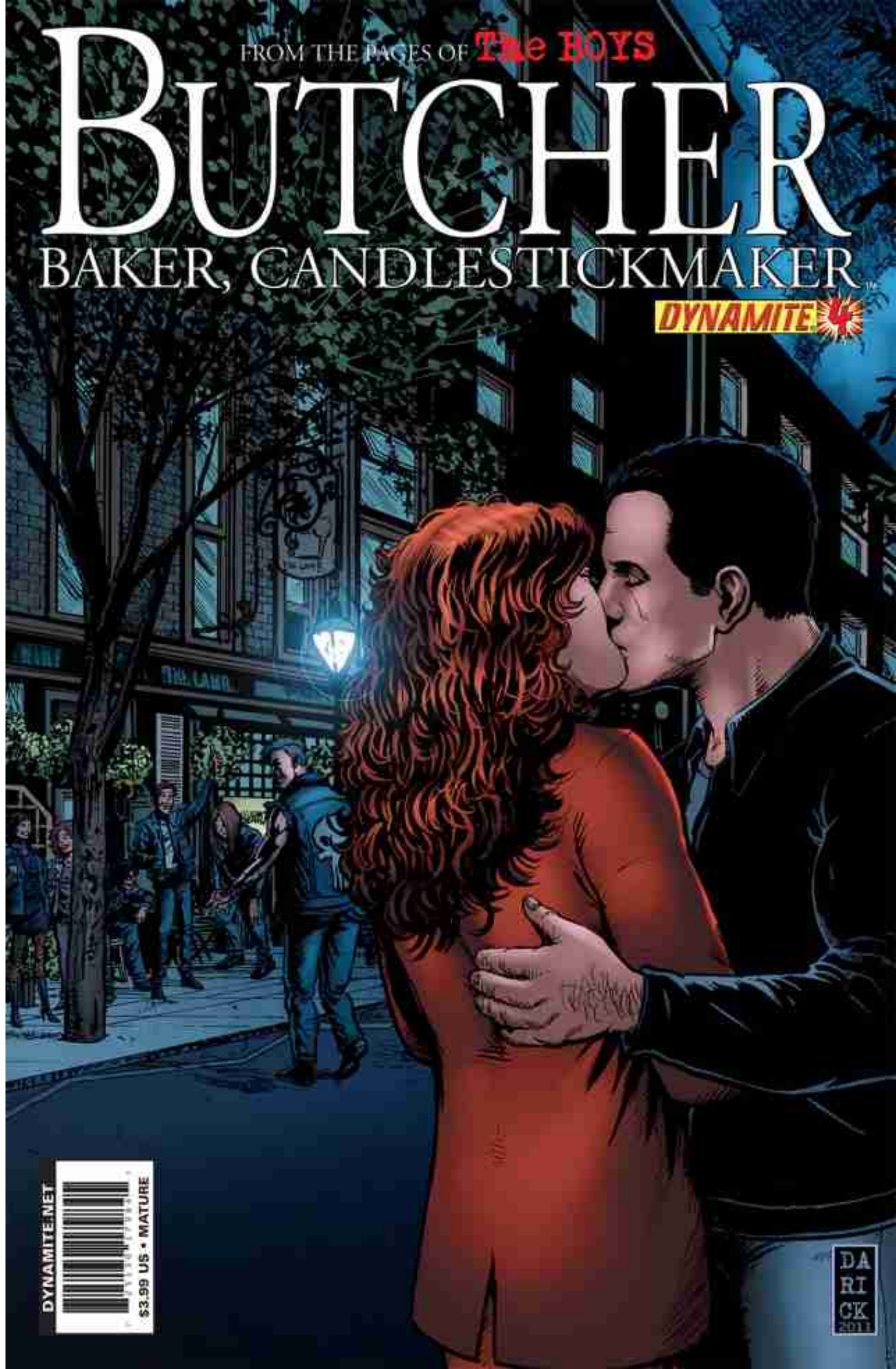


FROM THE PAGES OF **The BOYS**

BUTCHER

BAKER, CANDLESTICKMAKER

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FROM THE PAGES OF **The BOYS.**

BUTCHER

BAKER, CANDLESTICKMAKER.

In a world where costumed heroes soar through the sky and masked vigilantes prowl the night, someone's got to make sure the "supes" don't get out of line. And someone will.



Billy Butcher, Wee Hughie, Mother's Milk, The Frenchman and The Female are The Boys: a CIA-backed team of very dangerous people, each one dedicated to the struggle against the most lethal force on Earth- superpower. Some superheroes have to be watched. Some have to be controlled. And some of them- sometimes- need to be taken out of the picture.

That's when you call in **The Boys.**

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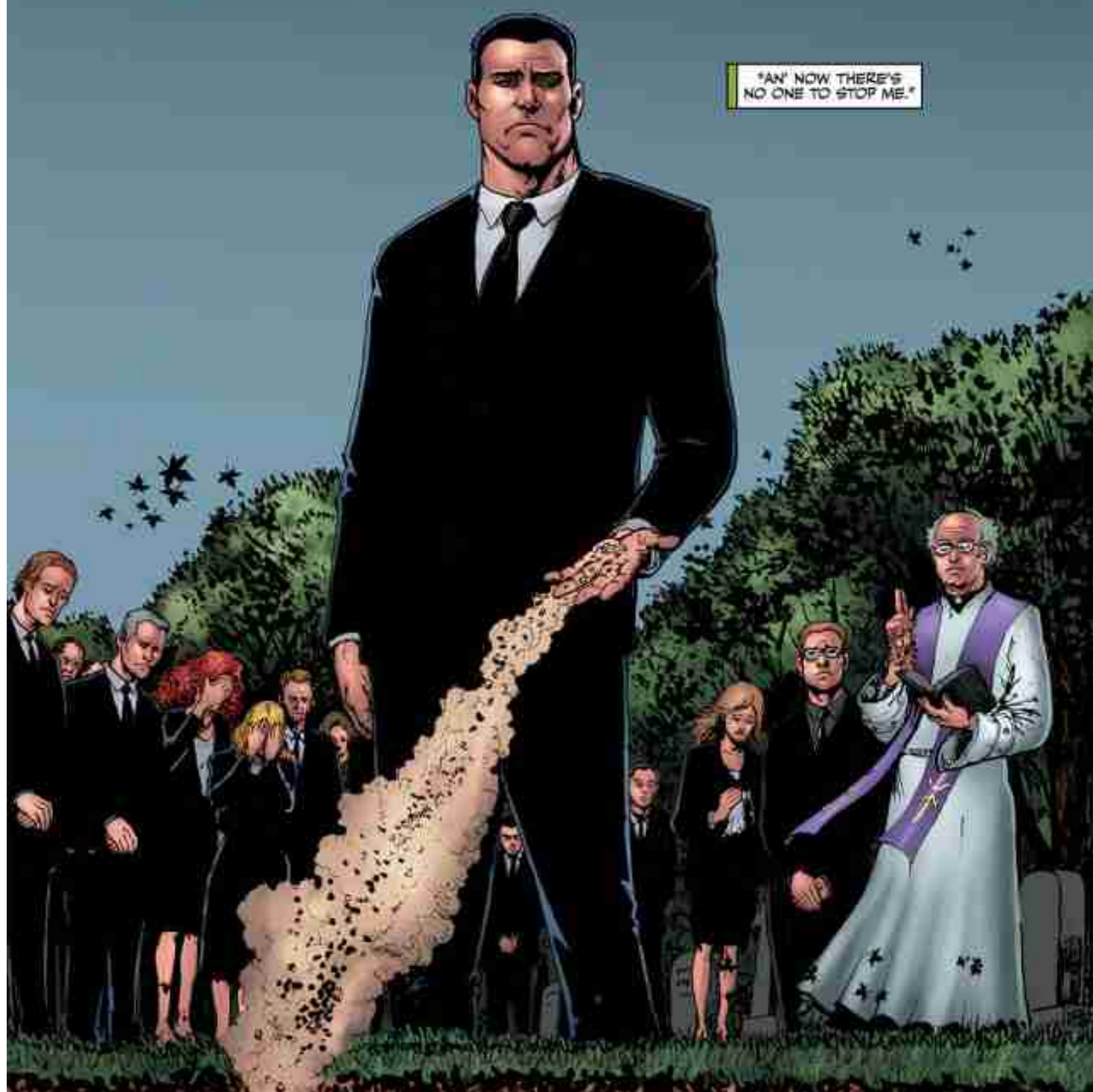
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"ME LITTLE
BROTHER'S DEAD..."

"AN' NOW THERE'S
NO ONE TO STOP ME."



4: THE LAST TIME
TO LOOK ON THIS
WORLD OF LIES

YOU DIDN'T EVEN TURN UP, YOU MISERABLE OLD FUCKER. YER OWN SON,

NOT THAT YOU KNEW IT, BUT HE WAS THE ONE THAT SAVED YER BLEEDIN' LIFE.

"WE HAD THE WAKE BACK AT OUR GAFF. THE VICAR TRIED TO TELL ME IT WAS ALL TO DO WITH GOD'S PLAN—BUT I MEAN COME ON, IF THERE'S ANYTHING MORE RANDOM AN' FUCKIN' POINTLESS THAN A LAD GETTIN' HIT BY A BUS, I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.

"SO THE POOR CUNT HAD HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM."

WHUFF.

BED?

YEAH, IN A MO.

YOU BEEN BRILLIANT, LOVE.

AW, WHAT ELSE AM I GONNA DO EXCEPT BE HERE FOR YOU...?

NAH, YOU BEEN GREAT.

HE TOLD ME NEVER TO LOSE YOU, D'YOU KNOW THAT?

HE SAID YOU WAS ONE IN A MILLION.

WHY NOT? YOU'D BE A BRILLIANT DAD.

HOW D'YOU KNOW?

'COS YOU'RE A BRILLIANT HUSBAND.

HMM.

I DUNNO ABOUT THAT. AN' I DUNNO ONE MEANS THE OTHER, EITHER.

YOU AINT WORRIED ABOUT TURNIN' OUT LIKE YER OL' MAN, ARE YOU?

'COS YOU AIN'T, BILLY, YOU COULDN'T EVER BE...

WELL...BEFORE I RAN INTO YOU I WEREN'T MUCH BLEEDIN' FUN, I'LL TELL YOU THAT MUCH.

YOU WAS SPOT-ON ABOUT A LOT OF IT. THE DRINK AN' GETTIN' WOUND UP AN' THAT.

I MEAN I NEVER SMACKED A BIRD AROUND OR NOTHIN', BUT...

AN' YOU'RE SCARED THAT'S STILL IN YOU? IT'LL--I DUNNO, IT'LL COME OUT SOMEHOW, IF WE HAVE KIDS?



I JUST DON'T
WANNA PASS
ANYTHIN' ON.

KEEP
ANYTHIN'
GOIN',
MAYBE.



I KNOW
IT SOUNDS
DAFT...

IT SOUNDS
REALLY SAD.

IT'S THE
EXACT OPPOSITE
O' THE WAY
THINGS'D BE.

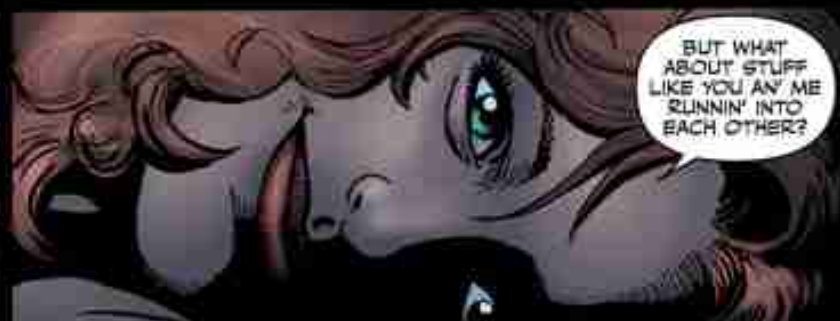


AN' APART FROM ANYTHIN' ELSE, LOOK HOW
FUCKIN' SHIT THE WORLD CAN BE SOMETIMES.
D'YOU REALLY WANNA SEE KIDS HAVIN'
TO DEAL WITH THAT?

YOU
MEAN LIKE WHAT
HAPPENED TO
LENNY...?

THAT.

THAT AN'
THE FACT THAT
BLOKES LIKE
ME DAD EVEN
EXIST.



BUT WHAT
ABOUT STUFF
LIKE YOU AN' ME
RUNNIN' INTO
EACH OTHER?



TRUE.

WE
AIN'T IN ANY
SORTA RUSH,
ARE WE?

WELL NO...
I MEAN I'M ONLY
TWENTY SIX, I
STILL LIKE ME
JOB...



THEN WHY
DON'T WE LEAVE
IT THE WAY IT IS
FOR NOW?

I NEVER HAD
CAUSE TO REGRET
THAT. LOT O'
BLOKES WOULD,
BUT NOT ME.

I MEAN I'D'VE
BEEN LEFT WITH A KID
TO BRING UP, WOULDN'T I?
AN' NO BLEEDIN' WAY
COULD I'VE DONE THAT
ON TOP O' WHAT I
DO NOW.

...NAH,
THAT AIN'T
COMPLETELY
TRUE.

IT MADE
BECKY SAD, I KNEW IT DID.
AN' ANYTHING TOOK THE
SMILE OFF HER FACE, EVEN
FOR ONLY A SECOND, I'M
GONNA REGRET THAT
'TIL THE DAY I DIE.

"NOW THIS WAS ROUND ABOUT THE
MID-EIGHTIES, WHEN MAGGIE THATCHER
WAS IN NUMBER TEN. SHE'D GIVEN THE
COUNTRY A RIGHT FUCKIN' KICK UP THE
ARSE, GOT IT MOVIN' AGAIN, AN' NOW YOU
HAD LADS MAKIN' MONEY HAND OVER FIST.

"I WAS A BIG FAN O' HERS WHEN
I WAS IN UNIFORM--MIND YOU,
ALL I WANTED TO DO THEN WAS
SHOOT PEOPLE AN' STICK
BAYONETS IN 'EM. AN' WHAT THE
FUCK DO YOU KNOW WHEN
YOU'RE SEVENTEEN, ANYWAY?

"NOW..."

"I WAS NEVER SHORT O' WORK, THAT WAS
ONE THING. BUT BEIN' WITH BECKY, SEEN'
HER TRYNA GET FUNDIN' FOR CHILD SERVICES
OR FOSTER CARE OR WHATEVER...WELL.

"YOU WERE STARTIN'
TO SEE THAT ALL THIS
MONEY WAS ONLY
GONNA GO ONE WAY."



...CHRIST
ALL-BLOODY-
MIGHTY.

TAKE A
BREAK, LOVE.
NO POINT KILLIN'
YERSELF.

CAN'T.



THAT'S NICE.
YOU KNOW THE
TROUBLE WITH
THIS CARE IN
THE COMMUNITY
THING?

THINK
I CAN
GUESS.

LISTEN,
I KNOW SOMETHIN'
MIGHT TAKE YER
MIND OFF IT...

RRRR...GET
THEE BEHIND
ME, SATAN...



THAT'S
CERTAINLY ONE
OPTION.

DIRTY
SOD!

LISTEN, ME
MUM AN' DAD WANT
US OVER FOR
DINNER ON SUNDAY.
YOU WANNA INVITE
YER MUM?



I DUNNO,
SHE'S STILL A BIT
SORT O' FRAGILE.
YOU ALL RIGHT IF
GRANDAD ATKINS
COMES TOO?

'COURSE.

SOUND.



OH, AN' WE'RE ALL
MEETIN' UP AFTER WORK
ON THURSDAY, WE'RE
GOIN' OUT FOR A BITE.
FANCY IT?

UH...
WHERE YOU
GOIN'?

NEW
PLACE.
SUSHI.



...EH?









THANKS FOR
PUTTIN' UP WITH
HIM THERE...

AH, HE'S
ALL RIGHT.



I THINK
HE LIKES THE IDEA
O' BLOKES LIKE ME,
HELPIN' US OUT O' THE
GUTTER AN' THAT. HE
JUST AIN'T THAT KEEN
WHEN HE ACTUALLY
MEETS US.

PLUS,
I DID WALK OFF
WITH THE STAR
PRIZE...

MM?



WHAT?

YOU
MEAN--

NO...!



GUY'S WITH
SHEILA, THEY'VE
BEEN TOGETHER
FOR AGES...

IT'S NICE,
THAT. HOW YOU
ALWAYS SEE
THE BEST IN
PEOPLE.



YOU MEAN
I'M SIMPLE.
DON'T
YOU--?

NAAAH,
NO! NO!

I'LL BLOODY
HAVE YOU FOR
THAT, BILLY
BUTCHER!

NO-NO-NO,
STOP, STOP! I
SURRENDER!



HUH.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I DONE
WHAT I DONE
FOR YER
BIRTHDAY.



NEITHER
COULD I.

SHE'D BEEN
SAVIN' FOR AGES.
GOT US A WEEK
IN FLORIDA, AT
MIAMI BEACH.

I WAS
MADE UP. SO WAS
SHE. THE PAIR OF
US WERE OVER
THE MOON...



"BUT WHAT
THE FUCK DID
WE KNOW?"

WHAT'S ALL
THAT ABOUT,
MATE?

THE SEVEN ARE
IN TOWN. THEY SAVE
US ALL FROM
ZILLAGORILLA.

EH?

THE
SUPERHEROES...?



OH,
YEAH.



YOU HAD A
LOOK AT THIS
BOLLOCKS?

OH, I THINK
THEY'RE
CREEPY...





SECOND TO
LAST NIGHT, I WENT
OUT FOR A WALK
AFTER DINNER.

BECKY SAID
SHE WAS KNACKERED,
WANTED TO STAY
IN AN' READ HER
BOOK.



LEAVE THE
LIGHT OFF
WILL YOU?



YEAH,
'COURSE, YOU
ALL RIGHT?

YEAH.

NO.

I THINK I
ATE SOMETHIN'...
I AIN'T FEELIN'
THAT GREAT.



THEM CLAMS,
MAYBE. I DIDN'T
LIKE THE LOOK
O' THEM.

YEAH, I JUST
WANNA SLEEP.



'COURSE.



"SO FUCKIN' OBVIOUS NOW. A BLIND MAN COULD SEE IT."

"SHE DIDN'T WANNA BE TOUCHED, SAT HUNCHED OVER ALL THE TIME, LIKE SHE WAS ALL KNOTTED UP INSIDE. DOOR SLAMMED OR WHATEVER, SHE JUMPED OUT OF HER SKIN."

"SHE DIDN'T SMILE NO MORE."

"I MEAN SHE TRIED TO PUT A BRAVE FACE ON IT NOW AN' AGAIN, BUT...BECKY WAS ALWAYS SO HONEST AN' REAL YOU COULD TELL SOMETHIN' WAS WRONG."

"BUT SHE WASN'T TALKIN', AN' I WAS TOO THICK TO CATCH ON."

IT WENT ON LONG ENOUGH IT WAS STARTIN' TO GET RIDICULOUS. SO SHE FED ME THIS BOLLOCKS ABOUT FEELIN' UNDER THE WEATHER, GOIN' TO SEE THE DOCTOR--AN' HE HADN'T A CLUE EITHER, HE WANTED TO DO MORE TESTS.

I REMEMBER TWIGGIN' SHE MIXED UP THE DATES WHEN SHE SAID SHE'D BEEN TO SEE HIM. I THOUGHT THAT'S WEIRD, SHE'S USUALLY SPOT ON ABOUT APPOINTMENTS AN' THAT.

AM, WELL...

"PROBABLY JUST THE STATE SHE'S IN."

HELLO, BRUV.



"I THINK IT HAPPENED FAST, 'COS EVEN IF I WASN'T A LIGHT SLEEPER, I COULDN'T'VE SLEPT THROUGH IT IF SHE--IF--IF SHE'D BEEN MAKIN' A LOT O' NOISE. ALL I DID HEAR, ALL I THINK I HEARD WAS A SORT O' LONG GASP, LIKE SOMEONE'D BEEN TRYINNA GULP IN ALL THE AIR IN THE ROOM. ONLY THEY NEVER BREATHED OUT AGAIN."











TALK
TO ME.

TO BE CONTINUED